



Robes made for the King and Queen of Tonga by Jack Carter of Portugal Place, 1965

155.02

c.44.6 : Portugal Street

1900

1902 02 27

Everyone in Cambridge knows the Maypole in Portugal Place, kept by Mr Rowell, the renowned pedestrian who holds the championship of the world. They will be sorry to hear that Mrs Hetty Rowell has not been enjoying the best of health lately; in fact she has been suffering from disorder of the kidneys, for which she has been taking Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. "I have so much improved that I cannot speak too highly of the pills", she says. A free sample. Send 1d stamp for postage and a sample will be sent at once. Mention Cambridge Daily News – advert.

1909 10 22

A number of cyclists appeared in court for various offences. Undergraduates from Caius, Trinity and St John's Colleges were fined for causing obstructions with their bicycles. Geoffrey Clayton of Pembroke College was summonsed for wheeling his bike across Christ's Pieces; he said he was a Freshman and had not seen the warning notices. Harold Grace of Queens' was fined for a similar offence in Portugal Place as was Edgar Proctor, a tobacconist of Mill Road. Carey Palmer, a printer of Warkworth Street, was fined five shillings for riding a cycle with no lights on New Square. CWN 09 10 22

1930

1932 03 05

Magistrates refused to relicence the Bowling Green public house, High Street, Chesterton. The landlord said a billiard room had been re-decorated, he had regular customers and it had become more

or less an institution. But there had been a decrease in trade, despite the growing estate nearby. The Maypole in Portugal Place was the headquarters of the Whippet Club; the tenant was 70 years of age and his only means of support would be the old-age pension. This together with the Alhambra in East Road, the Eagle Tavern beerhouse in Victoria Road and the Clarendon Arms was relicenced. 32 03 05 & a

1933 05 11

Portugal Terrace fire – 33 05 11

1939 01 02

Sir – During the last snowfall some bridges were a sheet of ice for a whole week and Garrett Hostel Bridge and Walk were never touched. Neither was any clearing done on Mount Pleasant, one of the most dangerous parts of Cambridge. More lorries are needed to cart away the snow which could be dumped on the Commons, rather than taking it miles to the river. And the by-laws should be enforced – residents in Portugal Street turned out to clear the snow but one of the worst lengths of pavement in Castle Street was in front of the Shire Hall. The unemployed or people receiving public assistance should be utilised 39 01 02

1940

1942 05 20

Birdwood Club for dependents of service people, children garden in Portugal Place – photo – 42 05 20

1945 02 16

No thriving licence. A resident of Portugal Place pleaded guilty to driving a car at Histon on January 13th without being the holder of a licence. The case was proved by W. R. Ison, Histon, who said that the defendant's licence had expired on March 1st. 1943. The defence put forward by Mr. Wild was that the defendant was a member of the Observer Corps, and had overlooked the fact that they did not cover him for a licence. He was fined 30s. 45 02 16

1950

1956 09 07

Portugal Place Lewis sketch – 56 09 07

1960's The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings from this date

1960

1961 12 01

Harper House in Portugal Place houses 10,000 books devoted to the British Empire. It started in 1919 with informal tea parties at which students met for cultural discussions. By 1921 these had become so popular that 'Cambridge University International Teas' and conferences were started. In 1940 Mrs Irene Harper formed the Birdwood Club open to British children whose families were 'not pacifists' and had some connection with the armed forces. The postwar years which produced a Motherland 'bewitched, bothered and bewildered about the Common Market' have thinned the ranks of the membership 61 12 01 & a

1964 06 05

Listed buildings may not be demolished but owners need not keep them in repair and they often deteriorate until they are condemned as a danger to public safety. Cromwell's barn in St Ives was a magnificent example of a 16th-century manorial barn but it was burn down because it became unsafe. In Cambridge many little cottages are disappearing behind scaffolding to emerge with a completely

different character and price-tag. Some houses in Portugal Place and a tiny court near Sidney Sussex College are in danger but Orchard Street has been saved by the Preservation Society 64 06 05b

1980

1981 09 22

Jack Carter, the Portugal Place outfitters which has been hiring gowns, tails and dinner suits to students and townsfolk since 1937 is to close. Their lease, owned by Jesus College, has run out and the rent has trebled. The business has been hit in other ways – last year they sold just six gowns because colleges now buy their own supplies, and there are not as many formal functions as previously. 81 09 22

1981 10 09

The closure of Wards, means another long-established name will disappear from the streets of Cambridge. Recently Jack Carter, the outfitters in Portugal Place announced it was to close, before that Johnsons menswear shop in Sidney Street decided to end 150 years of trading and last year Walker Wallpapers, a family firm for nearly 60 years also called it a day. Reasons vary from rising rates and rent bills to increased competition or simply that the old family has run out of members. 81 10 09e

1986 01 31

The Gordon Fraser Gallery owes its international fame to very humble beginnings at a tiny shop in Portugal Street. There was little passing trade at the newly modernised bookshop-cum-art gallery opened by Gordon Fraser in 1936. But amongst the merchandise on sale were original Picasso etchings and drawings by Matisse and James Thurber. The breakthrough came during the war when he commissioned local artists to produce cards which were printed in Bedford. It was there that the Gallery grew into a major force on the greetings card scene. 86 01 31a

1986 07 24

Hawks Club wants to convert disused hotel in Portugal Place into meeting place – 86 07 24

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1987 03 27

The world-famous Cambridge University Hawks Club, founded in the early 19th century, is to open in the city's up-market Portugal Place. It will turn the former Blue Boar Hotel's staff hostel into a club for the university's top sportsmen similar to the better gentleman's clubs in St James, London. Residents have expressed worries about noise and one councillor thought it wrong to spend such money when Cambridge urgently needs student accommodation. But supporters say it is a 'very valuable little house' that would be exceedingly well looked after. 87 03 27b

1990 01 25

Today's squatters are usually the young and single who do not qualify to go on council housing waiting lists. But after the war couples with children occupied empty houses in Jesus Lane and Parkside that had been requisitioned by the army. Then one family moved into Nissen huts in the grounds of a house in Hills Road and another into a four-storey property in Portugal Place. From then on more huts or houses were occupied daily. Then pre-fabricated steel houses were erected in Lichfield Road and Trumpington. They were meant to be temporary but some were lived in until the 1970s - 90 01 25c

1990 10 08

Cambridge Robes made ceremonial robes for monarchs, bishops at Portugal Place since 1947; to close
– 90 10 08b